

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
**TASKING PROFILE**

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**To (Recipient):** Obama, Barack

**From (Author):** Nolting, Sharon

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**Subject Text:** federal coal leasing  
cc Sally Jewell.

**Req. Surnames:**

**Mail Carrier:** PM

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**Correspondence Specialist and Phone:** SIO-OES Shane Wolfe/202-208-3071

**Closed**

**Comments:**

**Signed:**

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RECEIVED

May 15, 2016  
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President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

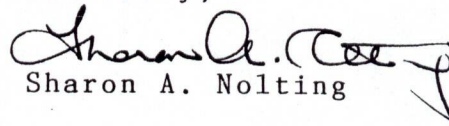
Re: Prevent New Coal Leasing  
on Public Lands

Dear President Obama,

I applaud your administration for placing a moratorium on new coal leasing on public lands while conducting a thorough - and far too long delayed - review of the federal coal leasing program. It is obvious that this program causes great environmental damage to our public lands, pollutes the air and water, and of course, contributes to accelerating climate change, among other damaging impacts. And, to add insult to injury, the revenues received by our government from the coal companies, are pathetically low, estimated to ultimately come to about 5%.

In my view, the most critical issue is not the money lost to taxpayers, nor even the damage to our precious public lands, but the large impact subsidizing (in effect) coal production has on the atmosphere and climate. In January, an article in Climate Progress stated that "the combustion of coal from federal lands accounts for more than 57 percent of all emissions from fossil fuel production on federal lands." An even more recent study by Greenpeace found that almost 80% of the coal produced by the 3 leading coal companies is taken from our public lands. There is a serious contradiction in your administration's climate policy here which I am hoping your review will make clear so that policy can be changed to align with what must be our highest priority: reducing greenhouse gas emissions to fight climate change.

Sincerely,

  
Sharon A. Nolting

cc: Secretary Jewell, Department of the Interior